

Responding to Rejection
John 15:18-16:4

Three different definitions for the word “world”

1. Created world
2. People in the world
3. People without God

“Do not conform any longer with the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to attest and approve what God’s will is, His good and pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

“Don’t love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything that is in the world, the cravings of the sinful man, the lust of the eye, the boasting of what he has and does is going to pass away. But he who does the will of God is going to last forever.”
1 John 2:15 - 17

Progression of rejection: Feelings. Passive action. Active rejection. Discrimination. Opposition. Persecution.

What you should not do when you face persecution:

1. Don’t take it personally

“In the past, you wasted too much time doing what nonbelievers enjoy. We were guilty of sexual sins, evil desires, drunkenness, wild and drunken parties, hateful idol worship. Non believers think it strange that you don’t follow man’s wild and wasteful things that they do and so they insult you. But they’ll have to explain this to God. He is ready to judge the living and the dead.” 1 Peter 4:3-5

2. Don’t try to fit in

3. Don’t try to avoid it

4. Don’t think that everyone is going to reject you

What can we believers in America do?

We can: Pray. Learn from them. Give to them. Speak out for them.

5. Don’t respond with harshness.

6. Don’t respond with pride.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” Matthew 5:13

“For whoever wants to save His life will lose it – But whoever loses his life for me will save it.”
Luke 9:24

“Give me 100 men who love God with all their hearts and fear nothing but sin – and I will change the world.” John Wesley

“If you want to be my followers you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, more than your own life. Otherwise you cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:26

7. Don't let an opportunity go by.

“So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’” Luke 16:24

8. Don't look for the reason.

9. Don't try to face persecution on your own.

“When Jesus called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” Luke 9:1,2

10. Don't go astray